



U. S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2004

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ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENTS AWARDS

MACON: Assistant United States Attorney **Richard S. Moultrie, Jr.**; FBI Special Agent **Jalaine Ward**, FBI Special Agent **Joan Cronier**, Assistant United States Attorney **Stephanie Thacker**, DOJ Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section; and Putnam County Sheriff **Howard Sills** have been chosen by the United States Department of Justice to receive Attorney General's Awards for Distinguished Service in connection with the case of United States v. York.

The prosecution team was nominated for its superior and exemplary service to the Department of Justice for the successful prosecution of cult leader, racketeer and serial child molester, Dwight D. York - one of the most significant and expansive investigations conducted in the Middle District of Georgia, and one of only a handful of RICO cases ever indicted by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia.

York was convicted by a federal jury of using his cultist organization to conceal a massive scheme to transport minors for unlawful sexual activity - a case that involved more than 30 child victims from January 1988 through May 2002. On April 22, 2004, York was sentenced to 135 years imprisonment.

The nomination stated "Through the two year commitment and determination of the prosecution team and federal and state investigators, who coordinated and secured the testimonies of 16 victims residing in multiple states at the time of the York trial, the Administration and the Department of Justice achieved one of its highest priorities: combating

crimes against children.”

Attorney General John Ashcroft presented the awards in a ceremony held today in Washington, D.C.

Any questions regarding this release should be directed to Pamela Lightsey, Community Relations Specialist, United States Attorney's Office at (478) 621-2603.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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